

as one of his earliest friends, and made himself known as a brother, by evidences which, the world over, need no further vouchers.

In a Masonic official position I have assisted in performing the last sad offices for two of the brethren indicated above, who have gone to their "refreshment on high;" some have gone to other lands, and it seems fitting that I should chronicle this brief history of that inner life of Masonry, as it was when the dark hours first began to fade into the light of a new morning of glowing prosperity.

[It may be interesting to the reader to know that the brother is now, and has been for many years, a resident of one of the largest cities in our State, where, at the head of one of our best colleges, he has won more than golden honors, and has filled many important positions in the gift of the Royal Craft.]—*Masonic Trowel*.

PARLIAMENTARY LAW, AS APPLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MASONIC BODIES.

BY A. G. MACKEY, M. D.

CHAPTER XXI.

OF QUESTIONS ON LEAVE TO WITHDRAW MOTIONS.

When a motion has once been made and seconded and read from the chair, it becomes the property of the assembly. If the mover, therefore, desires to withdraw it, he can only do so by consent of the meeting, which consent must also be unanimous. And there is reason in this; for if the meeting, notwithstanding the dissent of any member, were to grant leave for the withdrawal of any motion, it could gain nothing by the proceedings, for the dissenting member might immediately renew the motion.

It is not always deemed necessary to make a formal motion for the purpose of a withdrawal. The mover, who desires to withdraw his motion, asks permission to do so, the request being announced by the chair; if no one objects, the consent is supposed to be informally granted: but if any member says "I object," the matter is dropped and the discussion continues.

The motion—or in the form above stated the request—for permission to withdraw a motion may be made at any stage of the proceedings before the final vote is declared, and if adopted or granted, it removes the proposition of which it is the subject from the meeting at once, and all further proceedings on it are suppressed or cease.

Questions for the withdrawal of papers are in the nature of questions for the withdrawal of motions, and are subject to the same regulations. Reports of committees, petitions, or protests of members, and all other documents of any kind, when once presented to a Lodge—whether they be read and received as information, or not read and merely laid on the table, and their consideration postponed or referred to a committee—become the property of the Lodge, and can be withdrawn only upon motion or request, and the consent of a majority of the members. A motion for the withdrawal of such papers is always in order.

But an exception to this ruling must be made in the case of petitions for initiation, which by a recognized law or usage of the Order cannot be withdrawn after having once been presented to a Lodge; and a motion for the withdrawal of such petition would be always out of order.